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M.L.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Knoblock et al,
Serial No.: 09/995,193
Filed: November 27, 2001

Docket: RIC97006P1
Art Unit: 2171
Examiner: Not Assigned

Title: **METHOD, SYSTEM AND PROGRAM PRODUCT THAT UTILIZE A
HIERARCHICAL CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK TO MODEL AN
ENVIRONMENT CONTAINING A COLLECTION OF ITEMS**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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MAR 29 2002
Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination please enter the following amendments to the specification:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, please substitute the following paragraph under the sub-heading entitled
"CROSS-REFERENCE":

The present application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No.

09/702,184, filed on October 31, 2000, and entitled "System and Method to Automate

Equipment Placement at Remote Sites" which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No.

08/823,561 entitled "System and Method to Automate Equipment Placement at Remote Sites"

filed March 25, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,169,987. The present application is also related to

the following U.S. patents, which are assigned to the assignee of the present application and

incorporated herein by reference in their entireties: U.S. Patent Nos. 5,930,779, 5,991,759,

6,098,050, 6,169,987, and 6,023,699.